of introducing the system of Provident Fund with Government contribution at 1 anna per rupee of the salary in the place of the present pension system, which is applicable to Government servants?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Government have considered the question and have decided that the present system of granting pensions should continue.

AGREEMENT WITH THE CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA— COMPLIANCE WITH ALL TERMS

41. Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal):* Will Government be pleased to state whether all the terms of the agreement entered into with the Central Bank of India in regard to the management of the Treasuries have been complied with?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Yes; All the terms of the agreement have been complied with.

VENEREAL DISEASES—CHECK AGAINST

42. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) how many patients are coming to the Hospitals of the State who are either suffering from syphilis or from the after-effects of the same;

(*b*) is it a fact that more than 25 per cent of the population in the three big towns of Trichur, Ernakulam and Mattancheri is affected by syphilis directly or indirectly obtained or is suffering from its after-effects;

(*c*) have Government taken any serious step to check the spread of this foul disease in the State?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):*

(*a*) The number of syphilitic patients that attended the 15 hospitals of the State during the year 1116 is 5,980.

(*b*) Government have no information.

(*c*) Patients suffering from syphilis are treated in hospitals. There is no organised campaign against the disease at present.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether there will not be many persons who are suffering from either syphilis or after-effects of syphilis who do not attend our Hospitals?

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Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* Yes, there may be some.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether Government feel that something must be done to check the spread of this foul disease?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* What Government can do in this matter is, if they come to the hospitals, they can be given treatment.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether Government have thought fit to introduce clinics for leprosy and tuberculosis in the State?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether syphilis is a disease which is equally virulent and foul as leprosy and tuberculosis?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The difficulty is, a man suffering from venereal disease wants to hide that from the public.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* What about leprosy, Sir?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* In the case of leprosy, it cannot be hidden. It will make its appearance outside and it can be known very easily.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* That is long after.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* But in the case of this disease it is very easy to hide, and that has been the difficulty in solving this problem all over the world. Your figure 25 per cent may be correct. In European countries it comes to 33 per cent of which information comes only about 12 per cent. Even there the people are not coming forward, but try to hide it. It is also for the public to realise, because if they make it public we criticise them for this misfortune.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* I would like to know whether the Government do feel the necessity of doing some organised work to check the spread of this foul disease which is practically devastating the flower of youth, if I may say so?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* How?

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* By some compaign.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* What I say is, unless the people also co-operate with the authorities in this matter, nothing can be done.

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Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* What kind of co-operation from the people?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The co-operation is that they should come forward and proclaim that they are suffering from the disease. Even educated men do not do it.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I know what is done in foreign countries?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* They are encouraging people to come forward and they are trying to inculcate in the public mind that no special importance need be attached to this disease. If we succeed in doing that and if the people look upon this disease as we look upon typhoid, tuberculosis and the like, we can tackle the disease.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Can Mr. Iyyunni suggest any other acceptable method? *(laughter)* I ask the question seriously, not jokingly.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* I am not an expert in that line. What I wish to suggest is just as we have got clinics opened for the prevention of diseases like leprosy and tuberculosis, a clinic may be started for this thing also, because the effect upon the people by this disease is much more than the effects of other diseases. In the case of T. B. the man simply dies, but here it is gradual death prolonging for a number of years.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* What is the objection for the Government to start clinics for this purpose?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* There is no objection other than the paucity of funds.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will the Public Health Department take up this question and start propaganda work?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* As regards propaganda work, we will consider what could be done. As I said, unless there is some change in the psychology of the masses nothing can be done.

Mr. K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* And you do nothing to change the psychology?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* People like you must take an interest and proclaim this effect. I am not joking.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What is the incidence of this disease among our population?

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Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* No definite information is forthcoming.

Mr. President: That question has already been answered.

COLLECTION ON ACCOUNT OF FEES FOR MEDICAL ATTENDANCE IN STATE HOSPITALS—PARTICULARS OF

43. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) when the rules concerning the levy of fees for operation in Government hospitals were brought into force;

(*b*) how much money has been collected in the General Hospital, Ernakulam, Civil Hospital, Trichur, Maternity Hospital, Trichur, and Maharaja's Hospital, Palluruthi, till the end of 1116;

(c) how much money was collected from Government officers and how much from the rest?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):*

(*a*) From 1st Kumbham 1116.

(*b*) General Hospital, Ernakulam	Rs.	228—0—0
Civil Hospital, Trichur	,,	12—0—0
Maternity Hospital, Trichur	,,	Nil
Maharaja's Hospital, Palluruthi	,,	Nil
(c) Amount collected from Government Officers	Rs.	7—0—0
Amount collected from the rest	,,	233—0—0

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, what is the figure that is given in the administration report with regard to this in the year 1116? I think there it is over Rs. 1,000. Here, the figure given is Rs. 450.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* This figure represents the amount collected on account of operations. The figure you find in the administration report is the total amount collected on account of medical attendance from patients in our hospitals. I think, that figure is Rs. 1,351—13—0.

Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon *(Ernakulam-Women):* Will the Government be pleased to reduce the charges for operations, as I understand that they are very high.

Mr. President: That question does not arise.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Considering the smallness of the amount that we collect for operations and by sale of

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